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*The Young Vocalist: a Collection of Twelve Songs, each with an accompaniment for the Piano-forte, selected from Mozart, Weber, Mendelssohn, Spohr, &c.* By Mrs. MOUNSEY BARTHOLOMEW. London: Griffith and Farran.

THE title of this little volume of juvenile vocal music will sufficiently explain its object. Mrs. Bartholomew very truly says in her preface that most of the collections of songs for children "consist of old popular tunes, or they are of too fragmentary a character, being only eight bars in length." This defect has been remedied in the work before us, most of the specimens being of the average length of what may be called "grown up songs." The selection of the melodies has been judiciously made; and the words are simple, without degenerating into inanity. We cordially commend this volume as an excellent Christmas present to those children who, having escaped from the nursery, are not yet fully recognised in the drawing-room.

## Correspondence.

Petersfield, October 17th, 1867.

MESSRS. NOVELLO AND CO.

Gentlemen.—The idea of your correspondent, Mr. D. Parks, page 169, in your last issue of *Musical Times*, deserves to be entertained, and to further the design, permit me to say that its success would more likely be ensured were it made a *national affair*, to carry out which let a prospectus be issued appealing to all lovers of music for subscriptions for this competition. Let the Four Services (Morning and Evening)—we ought to have SIX for £150.—desired be called *The Victoria Services*, as being composed in the present reign. Form of composition to be stated; that is, what the Service is to consist of, and whether repetition of the words is to be allowed, or not; and whether *two* settings of a verse might not be considered desirable, thus, for parish choirs let there be *no* repetition of words, but, to give the composer an opportunity for expressing his ideas, and rendering the Service more cathedral-like, let him, if he desires, set a particular verse or verses, that *he* may fancy, in two forms, say thus, "Thou art the King of glory," set plain—then set in all the fulness and beauty of learning—so that either could be used, and yet a consecutive Service. It is most desirable that a number of gentlemen should at once be asked to act as judges of these Services, and their names published in the prospectus, which would assure subscribers, and composers, that from such a tribunal nothing but the fairest verdict would proceed, and at the same time state that their acceptance of such important post shall not preclude them from writing for the prizes, or we should lose some of our best talent. I should hope such men as Dr. Wesley, J. Goss, J. Turle, E. J. Hopkins (Temple), H. Smart, Dr. Dykes, G. Cooper, Montem Smith, Dr. Steggall, Dr. Stainer, J. Barnby, Sterndale Bennett, and Macfarren, would lend their valuable aid in this attempt to further the cause of good music. The decision of two-thirds of the number of judges to be final as to merit. All subscribers to be entitled to copies of all the Services. I will put my name down for £1, on condition that the foregoing ideas are entertained and carried out. If the suggestion meets your approval, no house in the world has the facilities for promoting it and bringing it to a glorious termination that you have. Let us remember the *Triumphs of Orana* on music's side, and the Bridgewater Treatises on that of literature. If for Six Services would the prizes do thus—£35 for the best, £25 for the second, £20 for the third, £15 for the fourth, £10 for the fifth, £5 for the sixth; total £110. Ought we not to have (morning) a *chant* for the Venite, single or double, at option of composer, and Te Deum, Jubilate or Benedictus, Kyrie, Sanctus, Creed. (Evening) Magnificat or Cantate, Deus or Nunc dimittis.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your very obedient servant,  
HENRY NICHOLS,  
Chemist.

[We have printed our correspondent's letter precisely as we received it; and shall be glad to open our columns to any further suggestions on the subject.—Ed. *Musical Times*.]

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

\* \* \* Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance.

We beg to remind our correspondents that all notices of country concerts, whether written or extracted from newspapers, must be accompanied by the name and address of the person who sends them.

Our correspondents will greatly oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be obliged for any mistake which may occur.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers, that although the music pages are always stereotyped, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.

Fortissimo.—The extract from Haydn's letter must not be taken literally. No composer who is worth anything "hammers away" until he has struck out an idea.

Legalis.—It is illegal to make manuscript copies of copyright music.

Organist.—We are not aware of any "agency" through which our correspondent could effect his object.

John Lawrance.—The original singers in *Elijah*, at Birmingham, were Madame Curadori Allan, Miss Bassano, Miss M. E. Hawes, the Misses A. and M. Williams, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Hobbs, Herr Staudtigh, Mr. H. Phillips, and Mr. Machin.

Musicus.—We cannot recommend songs to our correspondent. He should consult the catalogue of a music publisher.

## Brief Summary of Country News.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary; as all the notices are either collated from the local papers, or supplied to us by occasional correspondents.

ASHFORD.—A very excellent Concert was given by the Ashford Choral Society, on the 31st October, at the New Corn Exchange, which was crowded in every part. Miss H. Furley and Miss Ferguson were highly successful in their vocal solos, the audience being most enthusiastic in their applause after each song; and in many instances succeeding in enforcing an encore. Messrs. Calvert, Wind, and Scammell were equally well received, the two first-named gentlemen being compelled to repeat their songs. The vocal pieces by the choir were—"From Oberon in fairyland," "Ye spotted snakes," and "Here in cool grove." The solo and chorus, "Haste thee, nymph," was also excellently given, the solo being taken by the Rev. J. P. Syré, who fulfilled his part admirably, and was commended in the warmest manner by the audience. The pianoforte accompaniment in the glees and chorus was well played by Miss Stickings; and Mr. Legge was an efficient conductor. The band, led by Mr. Fuller, performed several instrumental works with much skill and effect.

BELFAST.—The members of the Fisherwick Choir gave their third annual concert in the Alfred School, on the 30th October. The large room was well filled in every part. The programme consisted of a good selection of songs, duets, and glees. A glee "Hail lovely May," composed by Mr. Moss, was sung for the first time in public, and met with a good reception; the local papers speak well of it, and of the performance generally. Miss McFarlane, Miss Kimpston, Mr. McMath, and Mr. Giles were the solo vocalists, Mr. Armstrong McMahon presided at the pianoforte; and Mr. William Moss conducted.

BOLTON.—A performance of Mendelssohn's *St. Paul* was given by the Bolton Philharmonic Society, at the Temperance Hall, on the 29th Oct., which was in every respect highly successful. Madame Patey-Whytock was unfortunately prevented from singing, on account of severe indisposition; and her place was most ably supplied by Miss Banks, who gave the whole of her solo music with the utmost effect. Mr. Perren and Mr. Patey were also thoroughly efficient in the tenor and bass parts; and the choruses, especially "Rise up, arise and shine," were delivered with much spirit and precision. The Oratorio was conducted by Mr. Peter Staton.—On Saturday, 26th October last, died Mr. John Fawcett, in his 78th year. The deceased, who had attained great local celebrity as a composer of sacred music, was a native of the village of Wennington, in Lancashire. His compositions are numerous, comprising at least seven books of Psalmody, a very large number of Anthems and Odes, mostly with instrumental accompaniments, an Oratoriette called "Paradise," a Pianoforte Tutor, a Church Service, Vocal Instruction books, as well as secular songs, pieces, and military music.

BOSTON SPA, YORKSHIRE.—On Monday, the 11th ult. Morning and Evening Concerts were given in the Lecture Hall, in aid of the Boston Spa United Cricket Club. The concerts were under the patronage, and in the presence of, the leading nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood. The orchestra was ably conducted by Mr. Matthew Arnold, organist and choirmaster of the parish church, Harrogate; and the pieces performed were Beethoven's Symphony, No. 1, in C, Haydn's 7th and 8th Symphonies, and the Overtures to *Tancredi*, *Masaniello*, and *Caliph of Bagdad*. The vocal portion of the programme was sustained by Miss Arnold, Messrs. Stubley, Clarke, Fawcett, Hodgson, Arnold, and Watson. Especial mention must be made of the glees, part songs, &c., rendered by Miss Arnold, Messrs. Fawcett, Hodgson, and Watson. Mr. M. Arnold officiated as pianist, and also performed on the violin with much success. The room was very full; and we trust that a large sum will be realized.

BRIDGNORTH.—The First Concert of the Harmonic Society was given at the Assembly Rooms, on the 5th ult. The programme was of a popular character, and the various pieces were most enthusiastically received by the audience. Several glees were executed with much care and precision. Mr. Herbert was eminently successful in his songs; and Mr. J. J. Ransford received an unanimous encore for his execution of the bass solo "Rocked in the cradle of the deep." Miss J. Cureton and Mr. Horne were also much applauded, especially in a duet, which was exceedingly well sung. The solo pianist was Mr. John Sewell, who executed a piece so brilliantly as to elicit an encore which, however, he did not respond to. The choir was ably conducted by Mr. Sewell.

BRISTOL.—The opening Oratorio at the new Colston Hall was Handel's *Messiah*, the performance of which was in every respect a most decided success. The chorus numbered 446